PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO • PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 47 no.16 August 12, 2015 suggested donation $0.50

DEATH TO THE KLAN!

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, July 18 — "Shut this racist rally down! Chase them out of town!" Scores of anti-racists took up Progressive Labor Party's chants at a rally here against the Ku Klux Klan. Both Black and white working-class families welcomed PLP's call for multiracial unity against all forms of nationalism.

South Carolina has been rocked by racist murders. Walter Scott was shot in the back by kkkop Michael Slager after a routine traffic stop. Klan-lover Dylann Roof murdered nine people at Emmanuel AME Church, spurring a national debate over public displays of the Confederate flag.

The bosses permitted two nationalist protests at the South Carolina State House. On the north side steps were Black nationalists advocating for the "power in the melanin" and for Black capitalism. On the south side were the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the National Socialist Movement, a Nazi organization, calling for white power.

The white supremacists waved Confederate flags and performed Hitler salutes. In response, PLP and others in the crowd chanted, "Death, death, death to the racists!"

PLP has a long history of fighting Klan and Nazi groups. We invaded a Nazi headquarters in Chicago and physically stopped them from broadcasting from a Kansas City radio station. We smashed David Duke and his forces in Boston. We burned a Klan hood at a John Brown demonstration in Texas and stood up against armed Klansmen in Tupelo, Mississippi. More recently, we infiltrated and attacked these gutter racists at New York City Hall and in Morristown, New Jersey.

In short, these cowardly fascists have a history of taking a beating from anti-racists. And that's what happened here today. A group of Black rebels beat a KKK scum who had earlier taunted the crowd with racist slurs. Wherever fascists are on the attack, the working class must up the ante and fight back.

Part of fighting back means attacking the root of racism: capitalist state power. The ruling class runs on racist exploitation of workers. U.S. bosses reap billions of dollars each year by paying Black, Latin, and migrant workers less than white workers. The genocide of indigenous people and enslavement of Black people is the foundation of U.S. state power. All capitalist institutions are built on this bedrock of racism: the government, police, military, industry, schools, prisons, churches, media, hospitals, and more.

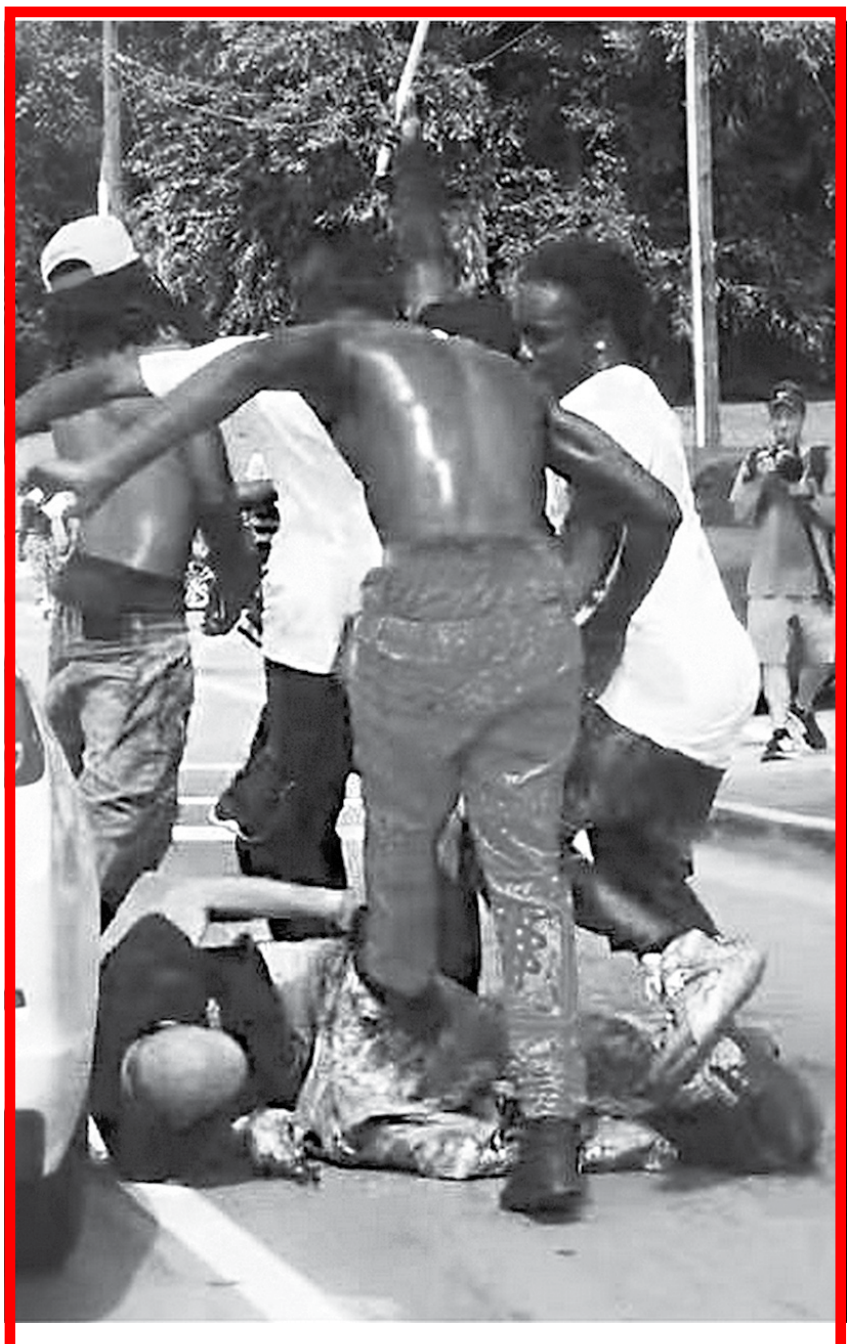
Just as the Nazis won much of the German working class to its genocidal ideology, U.S. ruling-class racism helps gutter racist groups dupe poor white workers into scapegoating other members of their class. By dividing workers with the mythical concept of race, the rulers make it more difficult for communists to build the multiracial movement we need to smash the system.

PLP fights for communist state power. The working class will rule every aspect of society. This world will be based on need and collectivity, not racist and sexist exploitation. Wherever we put forward these ideas, workers respond to them. More than 500 anti-racists, Black and white, took our leaflets and CHALLENGEs in Columbia. Some signed up for a CHALLENGE subscription.

Black Capitalism Is Still Capitalism

Unfortunately, despite a small PL presence, the most conspicuous alternative to the neo-Nazis was a group

Continued on page 4



Black youth take the lead and batter a kkk scum!

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★**EDITORIAL**
Liberal Pols the Main Enemy
page 2

★**CLEVELAND**
PL'ers Push Back vs. Nationalists
page 3

★**NYC**
Fight vs. Racism Heats Up
page 4

★**TANZANIA**
Anti-Albino Racism Hurts All Workers
page 5

★**HISTORY**
PL Sparks Class War
page 8

OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue $0.50. One Year: $15. Six months: $10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, August 12, 2015. Volume 47, No. 16

Editorial

Bernie Sanders No Solution

Liberal Pols the Main Enemy

It's easy to spot right-wing capitalist mouthpieces, the politicians who build racism by attacking immigrants, poor people, and what little remains of the social safety net. But the more dangerous enemies are the liberals, whose main job is to deceive and pacify the international working class. Ranging from Pope Francis to Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, these fake leftists are falling over one another to bemoan the profit system's growing economic inequalities.

The latest darling of the lethal ruling-class liberals is Bernie Sanders, the U.S. senator from Vermont who is challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination for president in 2016.

Why are these liberal misleaders gaining influence and so much attention from the bosses' media? Workers around the world are angry. If their anger is directed at the capitalist system and organized around the class-conscious outlook of the Progressive Labor Party, it will be game over for the bosses. PLP fights for the working class to gain power. We're building a mass party in more than two dozen countries to win workers to build a communist world of true equality, and to smash this racist, imperialist system with communist revolution!

As the U.S., China, Russia, and other imperialist rivals intensify their fight over oil and other resources, they use their politicians to win the loyalty of the workers they oppress. Their first lie is "we're all in this together," a promotion of patriotism and all-class unity that divides the international working class. The second lie is that the capitalist system, which cannot exist without the brutal exploitation of our class, can somehow be reformed.

Sanders: Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Bernie Sanders is being promoted by the liberal finance capitalists as an alternative for workers and youth disillusioned by Barack Obama's presidency and by Hillary Clinton—the same role candidate Obama played against Clinton in 2008. But when recently confronted by activists from Black Lives Matter, Sanders—a long-time supporter of the hyper-racist Israeli state—had nothing to say about racism. His bankrupt solution to the system's problems is to make workers part owners of the companies they work for. This reactionary idea would make workers even more vulnerable to the cyclical crises of capitalism, chaining them more tightly to the big banks for loans.

Every four years, the U.S. working class is fed a new "savior" candidate, yet the result never changes. Workers continue to suffer, with Black and Latin workers hit hardest.

The ruling-class Center for American Progress (CAP) think tank praised Sanders three times in its 2013 paper, "Growing the Wealth: How Government Encourages Broad-Based Inclusive Capitalism." Who runs CAP? Its top donors include Citigroup and the Rockefeller and Soros foundations. Madeleine Albright, the secretary of state under Bill Clinton who justified the sanction-driven murder of half a million Iraqi children, serves as a director. CAP's chairman is John Podesta, formerly Bill Clinton's chief of staff and currently Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman. This is the same Bill Clinton who promoted the racist mass incarceration of Black youth, the hiring and arming of 100,000 more cops, and the destruction of welfare and educational opportunities for mainly Black and Latin workers.

Sanders has ruled out an independent, third-party candidacy; he is running strictly as a Democrat. Both he and his party's leaders know he has little or no chance to prevail. His job is to build enthusiasm among workers and youth for the boss-controlled electoral process, and then to throw his support to whatever Democrat wins the nomination. Sanders' constituency represents many of the people the U.S. ruling class needs to embrace its agenda for wider imperialist wars, and in particular for a military draft. These are the workers and youth PLP must win to our ranks to fight for communist revolution!

A recent piece in Counterpunch (7/21/15) recounts Sanders' role as a cynical ruling-class tool as early as 1990: "[Sanders] went to the Kennedy School at Harvard for six months and came back with a new relationship with the state's Democrats…. Bernie has become an ardent imperialist. Sanders endorsed [Bill] Clinton in 1992 and 1996."

Like every liberal imperialist politician, Sanders and his pro-worker mask present a grave danger to our class. As a U.S. congressman and senator, according to Street (7/21/15), Sanders voted for:

- Economic sanctions that killed more than a million Iraqi civilians;
- Every U.S. bombing of Iraq since 1992;
- Sending U.S. military units to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to threaten Iraq because "we cannot tolerate aggression";
- Bill Clinton's overtly racist Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (1994), which accelerated the mass incarceration of Black and Latin workers and youth;
- U.S. interventions in Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Liberia, Zaire (Congo), Albania, Sudan, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

Sellouts Love Sanders

Nineteen of Sanders' top 20 contributors, according to Open Secrets.org, are among the largest trade unions. These unions have sold out our class by collaborating with the bosses to defeat working-class fightback. Their traitorous leaders haven't led a significant strike in over three decades.

The other top Sanders contributor is the American Association for Justice, a creation of billionaire imperialist George Soros's Open Society Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Sanders is no friend of the working class. He is deeply intertwined with the highest circles of the U.S. ruling class.

Whether Sanders, Clinton, or some other capitalist shill becomes the Democrats' choice for the next electoral circus, workers have no stake in any election. Every capitalist democracy is a dictatorship of the bosses. Every capitalist ruling class aims to channel workers' frustrations into support for some lying capitalist candidate. PLP says, "Don't vote, revolt!" We fight to organize the international working class to end the capitalists' dictatorship, build a communist world, and smash racism, sexism, and imperialism once and for all. Join us!✪

Sanders-Style "Socialism:" What's In A Name?

Bernie Sanders has made headlines as a self-proclaimed "socialist," whatever that means. In the mid-19th century, at the dawn of the modern communist movement, there were many competing political ideas. The movement founded by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels believed in a two-stage theory of revolution. They proposed that workers must first fight for socialism, a system that would entail armed revolution and a workers' dictatorship but also temporarily retain the wage system and certain inequalities. In practice, however, in both the Soviet Union and China, socialism led not to communism but back to capitalism. In *Road to Revolution 4* (1982), PLP broke with the two-stage theory and put forward the idea of winning workers directly to communism.

When Marx and Engels labeled their seminal 1848 document the "Communist Manifesto," it was in part to distinguish themselves from countless socialist groups proclaiming a confusing mix of programs. Politicians like Sanders love to call themselves "socialists" precisely because the term is so vague. It's no accident that "Nazi" stood for "National Socialist German Workers' Party." In the 1920s and '30s, the Nazis employed the term "socialism" to mislead frustrated workers away from support for the world's first socialist republic, the Soviet Union.

We cannot afford to make the same mistake. Workers must not buy the "socialist" label, especially from capitalist fakers like Bernie Sanders.

Black Lives Matter Convention

PL'ers Push Back vs. Nationalists

CLEVELAND, July 26 — At the first Black Lives Matter (BLM) convention, as our Black, white, and South Asian comrades chanted "Racism means we got to fight back!" a group of people tried to rip the bullhorn from our hands. They apparently were outraged by a multiracial group like the Progressive Labor Party leading anti-racist chants.

Our opposition wasn't the Klan. It wasn't the cops. It was a leaders of Black Lives Matter.

A seemingly progressive, grass-roots organization, Black Lives Matter is in reality backed by arch-imperialist George Soros, the Kellogg Foundation (champions of anti-student education reform), and the Ford Foundation, the philanthropic front group for the Hitler-backing corporation that oppresses workers throughout the world. Given their vested interest in maintaining global capitalism, these funders must keep workers divided to continue to maximize profits. Within BLM, they have found some willing junior partners to promote working-class division, capitalist-controlled elections, and the reactionary ideology of Black nationalism as a false solution to racist police murders and poverty.

BLM's leadership exposed their anti-worker ideas when they attacked our multiracial group of comrades. Multiracial fightback to smash capitalism—led by the revolutionary communist PLP—is the only solution to racism and poverty. It is the only real threat to capitalists like Soros, Kellogg, and Ford.

The Poison of Privilege Politics

BLM's leadership attempts to mislead workers into believing that racism is a Black issue that white people cannot fully understand. Since white workers benefit from "white privilege," as this faulty reasoning goes, their only incentive to fight racism is a moral one—a modern version of the "white man's burden." Ignoring the crucial role that racism plays in the exploitation of white workers, BLM asks Black workers and their "white allies" to organize separately in their own communities.

But despite the BLM leadership's call for a Black-only conference, a dozen Black, white, and South Asian PL comrades from New York, Indiana, Chicago, and DC showed up here. When we entered the conference, the leadership asked our white comrades to leave and wait for them to create a "white ally" space. We remained as one group and attended the workshops, where the leadership consistently attacked the white people simply for being there (see letters, page 6).

If left unchallenged, these attacks would create the illusion that the fight against racism is for Black workers alone. In reality, racism oppresses all workers while super-exploiting Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant workers. It uses racist distinctions and divisions to drive all workers' wages down. By focusing workshops on the question of the white comrades' presence, BLM's leaders distracted everyone from fighting the system and toward fighting each other.

Black Workers Embrace Communist Ideas

Despite these attacks, many attendees supported our multiracial group. We distributed our literature and held a forum on fighting capitalism with multiracial unity. The forum was a success, with people showing openness to our ideas and even giving us contact information and subscribing to CHALLENGE.

Perhaps our biggest gain was in the experience of engaging the class enemy. All of the PL'ers were young and gained leadership experience. Moreover, we now have a sharper view of today's Black nationalism and identity politics. We've seen it proliferate in our textbooks and classrooms, but we deepened our political understanding by confronting it in practice. We all need to understand how to combat the wide variety of capitalist ideas and better fight for revolutionary communism.

The leaders of Black Lives Matter are not serious about fighting racism. If they were, they wouldn't be taking money from the same people who create, perpetuate, and depend on racism to reap super-profits. They wouldn't be doing the bosses' job by creating divisions between honest Black and white workers who share the same interests. They wouldn't be holding a conference where they focus more on attacking a multiracial group of anti-racists than on organizing for the one-year anniversary of Michael Brown's death.

Progressive Labor Party, not Black Lives Matter, is the only group serious about eliminating racism, poverty, and capitalism. All workers must fight together to smash our chains. Join us!✪

Kyam: Two Years, Still Fighting

BROOKLYN, July 21 — It is two years since Kyam Livingston was killed in a Brooklyn jail cell. She was ill and crying out in pain for over seven hours while her pleas, and those of others in her cell, were ignored by the murderous New York Police Department. The 24th demonstration for Justice for Kyam was held today, on the second anniversary of her death, outside the courthouse where Brooklyn Central Booking is located. More than 60 people joined this multi-racial rally.

Fighters take the street at the two-year memorial of Kyam's murder by racist police.

Chants of "We want justice for Kyam Livingston, killed in a Brooklyn cell!" and "If we don't get it, shut it down!" were loud and clear throughout the demonstration. The sound of voices grew as people arrived at the end of their workday. PL'ers distributed over a hundred CHALLENGEs and several hundred leaflets. As the demonstration took over the street, the police were forced to divert traffic. Anita Neal, Kyam's mother, her daughter's ashes in her hands, walked in and then out of the courthouse to make the point that her daughter was now free. As a PL'er sang a song about the true nature of the bosses' racist terror, Anita's wailed in anguish for her loss—and in anger at the brutality of the profit system.

Anita's determination inspires the rest of us to keep fighting back against the system, in the name of Kyam and for the millions slaughtered by police and in wars for profit. Several speakers talked about how the loss of human life from simple callousness and cruelty is business as usual under capitalism, especially for Black workers. Racism and racist terror are built into this system as an essential for the bosses to keep the working class divided. When we build multi-racial unity and fight back, the ruling class shudders in fear!

PLP has a long, storied history of fighting back against racist, fascist police murder in Brooklyn, helping to form multi-racial fight back and justice committees that regularly take to the streets. When we are out fighting for Kyam, we are also fighting for Shantel Davis and Kiki Gray, for Mike Brown and Walter Scott, and for the all too many other victims of police terror. As the sister of Shantel, who was killed by the NYPD in Flatbush three years ago, has said many times: What the cops and bosses don't realize is that they're building a family of anti-racist fighters, bonded together.

At the end of the demonstration, a vow was made to keep the battle going, to support Kyam's mother and the rest of the family in the struggle for justice inside and outside the system. Within that struggle, people learn about the true nature and violence of capitalism. Families of slaughtered relatives may get compensation money through the courts, but the killer cops almost never suffer for their crimes. The racist nature of the system survives unscathed. As a PL speaker said, it's impossible to get real justice under capitalism. Only a communist revolution can end racism, because only communist revolution will smash the system that breeds and survives on racism—capitalism. Join PLP in the fight for working class justice and communist revolution!✪

NYC: Fight vs. Racism Heats Up

STATEN ISLAND, NY, July 18 — "We are going to continue to fight to build a mass struggle around the issues of racism and police brutality, the only way we can bring any change. Electing politicians won't change anything!" This declaration of defiance was made today by two dozen workers on the steps to the office of Staten Island Congressman Dan Donovan.

The rally was called to commemorate Eric Garner's murder and condemn this racist politician. Donovan made sure that the grand jury didn't indict Garner's murderer, killer kkkop Daniel Pantaleo, or anybody else for Eric Garner's murder. He even had the courageous Ramsay Orta, who took the video of Pantaleo's choke hold, arrested and indicted three times!

Students, campus workers, professors and the local community responded to the urgency of forming a multiracial, anti-racist organization at the College of Staten Island: Staten Island Against Racism and Police Brutality. One group member stated that New York's "broken windows" policing is the problem, and that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio his appointed police commissioner, William Bratton, are directly responsible for Eric Garner's murder. As another worker noted, if Pantaleo couldn't be indicted, a cop will never beheld accountable for killing a Black man.

The Progressive Labor Party salutes the bold community members taking this anti-racist struggle forward! PLP is building a mass, international anti-racist movement of millions to destroy the root of racism—capitalism—with armed communist revolution. We invite these bold fighters in Staten Island to share their lessons and struggles with us, and help us forge a future without racist police terror.✪

I was invited to a vigil for Sandra Bland this weekend in Brooklyn by a group of college student activists. Bland, who died in jail in Texas on July 13, is one of the latest victims of racist police terror. There has been a lot of discussion about whether Bland committed suicide or was murdered, but one of the participants at the vigil summed it up: "Sandra would be alive today if she had never encountered that police officer."

The vigil was poignant and well organized. Everyone had a chance to speak and share their thoughts. Two participants spoke of revolution. Many young women spoke of how Sandra's death hit home. People agreed that having marches and vigils in working-class communities was better than organizing rallies in the downtown area.

The group of mostly young women marched through Prospect Park and leaflets were given to onlookers. A few people joined, including a young Russian student who spoke of the racism faced by African workers there.

PLP has been saying that we must not "get used" to all the injustices of capitalism and that we should take every opportunity to fight back. These young women, including two students in my class, did a great job of making a statement. Let's keep fighting back—every day, in every way!✪

White Comrades, Not Allies

Within the Black Lives Matter movement, there is confusion over the meaning and significance of "white supremacy." As communists, we need to understand what the term means to folks who are actually using it. Distorted ideas can weaken working-class struggle against racism, capitalism and for workers' power. Yet many advocates of these ideas may simply not yet be familiar with the richness of class analysis, which includes anti-racism at its core. Our discussions with such potential comrades need to be clear and friendly, and help move the struggle forward.

"White supremacy" can certainly be used to characterize obvious groups like the historic Citizens Councils and the KKK. The U.S. ruling class has used white supremacist ideology as a prop for capitalism. But some people who decry "white supremacy" miss its ideological function. They conclude that "white privilege" offers all white people advantages over Black and Latin workers in all aspects of life. The Progressive Labor Party always tries to clarify that the condition for most white workers and their families is one of oppression—less, in general, than the oppression experienced by Black workers, but oppression nonetheless. There is, therefore, an objective basis for unity of the oppressed. White workers and students who are anti-racist are not "allies"—they are comrades in the struggle!

At an AFL-CIO panel in DC, the white supremacy argument was directed toward the historically white leaders of unions who limited positions within unions to white workers. But the greater issue for the unions today is the failure to militantly fight the bosses. Union leaders should fight for economic and social justice for all workers and broaden the struggle for equality to issues beyond wages and benefits for their immediate members. But few do this as they capitulate to the needs of capital.

A PLP member noted that many union leaders failed to support workers' struggles in the Detroit auto strike and the DC Metro strike in the 1970s. He called for unions to attack capitalism itself and destroy it. Both Black and white politicians and union leaders have attacked worker's struggles. A better analysis would focus on the capitalist class and their supporters in labor—the class traitors Marx called "the labor aristocracy." Replacing white union leaders with Black leaders does not change the equation if they, too, play the role of sellouts.

What many people think of as "white privilege" cannot be denied in a day-to-day functioning of society. Disparities in health, housing, jobs and education are apparent. That's racism! Background checks hurt Black workers more than white workers because of racist attacks on Black workers in the so-called War on Drugs that led to mass incarceration. But white workers are also oppressed by capitalism. They need to destroy capitalism and replace it with a communist society as well. How then to build unity and solidarity?

PLP recognizes that only by taking on the sharpest anti-racist struggles can we build this unity. Black and Latin leaders (including PLPers!) are crucial to success. In DC we have supported the transit workers' struggles for years and led the 1978 wildcat strike. This predominantly Black workforce is increasingly under attack with new job rules, extended wage progressions, rigid background checks and privatization. The years-long struggle against racist police brutality was central to our work in Prince George's County and DC. We have engaged in public health struggles over AIDS, housing and mass incarceration. Multiracial unity has been essential to advancing these struggles.

Many Black workers do not see Black capitalism as a solution, but they may be influenced by the rhetoric to organize with nationalist formations. This reinforces the divisions in the working class and limits the ability to build a truly revolutionary movement. Racism in Europe and Asia leads to similar nationalist formations. PLP has opposed this thinking for the past 40 years and continues to try to unite all workers against capitalism in a single international party.

We have to explore the meaning of the current language of "white privilege" with our friends, point out the reactionary direction such ideology takes the movement, and continue to struggle for multiracial unity among leaders and members of the mass organizations to which we belong.✪

Death to the Klan!

Continued from front page

of Black nationalists. These counter-revolutionaries called for a country without "Indian, Chinese, or Irish" workers. They called upon Black people to "buy Black and invest in Black businesses"—in other words, to identify and ally with Black capitalists. They also threatened "any blue-eyed devil" who "dared to come" to their town hall meeting after the rally.

Nationalism is the rulers' main tool to divide our class. It traps us into false unity with groups of bosses based on nationality or race, from Barack Obama to the new Black police chief in Ferguson, Missouri. It leads to our self-destruction. As the historian Lerone Bennett wrote in 1970 in *The Road Not Taken*,

> *Before the invention of the Negro or the white man or the words and concepts to describe them…these people worked together and relaxed together. They had essentially the same interests, the same aspirations, and the same grievances. They conspired together and waged a common struggle against their common enemy….The race problem in America was a deliberate invention of men who systematically separated blacks and white in order to make money.*

The need for a common struggle against capitalism is no less urgent today. Workers from Haiti to South Africa to Cuba must no longer retreat from communist revolution. Those who organize along nationalist lines are lining their own pockets, not serving the international working class.

In Columbia, amid the Confederate and Black nationalist flags, the working class of South Carolina was presented with an alternative: the red flag of communist revolution. Capitalism lives off nationalist division. What it can't survive is a mass, multiracial communist party. For the working class worldwide, that party is PLP.✪

Tanzania: Anti-Albino Racism Hurts All Workers

Tanzania is home to the genocide of workers who have a condition known as albinism. The genocide occurs mainly in the city of Mwanza and in the mining regions of Geita, Kagera, and Shinyanga. The Progressive Labor Party in Tanzania is the only group connecting this genocide to capitalism, and we fight for a communist world where it will be abolished!

Albinism is an inherited, genetic skin condition caused by a mutation affecting the enzyme in human skin responsible for skin, hair, and eye color. It's believed that albino workers were persecuted in many other places and fled to Tanzania, which may explain why Tanzania has the greatest concentration of albino people in the world. Tanzania is a former British colony, and the British encouraged beliefs that albino workers were cursed. These racist superstitions led many albino infants to be thrown away in the forests.

Capitalism Keeps Racist Colonial Legacy Alive

British colonialism ended in the early 1960s with an upsurge of anti-racism and anti-imperialism among workers and peasants. The sellout nationalist government was pressured to outlaw violence against albino workers. Under capitalism, however, all reforms are short-lived. In 1985, a capitalist crisis struck Tanzania, forcing the government to borrow money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the U.S. imperialist-backed bank. After waves of IMF decrees destroyed the educational system and welfare and led to a massive increase in poverty, the ruling class of Tanzania brought anti-albino racism back with a vengeance. Murders of albino workers began again, this time out of the belief that their body parts would bring wealth if presented to a witch doctor.

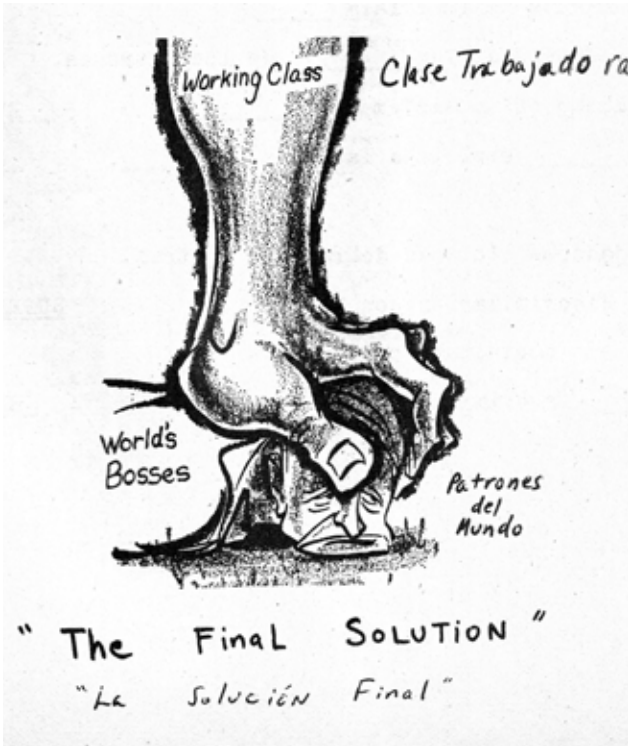
Since 2006, 76 albino workers were killed and 56 injured, 11 of those with permanent injuries. Eighteen albino graves have been desecrated and the bodies removed. In 2014, an albino child known as Upendo Emanuel was kidnapped and still hasn't been found. This past February 15, another child, one year-old Yohana Bahati, was taken from his mother, who was cut up with machetes. Later, when the child's grave was dug up, some of Yohana's body parts were missing.

Only Communism Can Protect All Workers

Violence between workers will continue as long as capitalism remains. The capitalist government of Tanzania can never truly address these crimes because it's the capitalist ruling class that profits off of the division of the working class. These capitalists support the racist superstitions against albino workers, along with apartheid-like laws against many of the country's 120 ethnic groups. This keeps workers from seeing capitalism as their enemy and communist revolution as their solution.

In 1992, greater "freedoms" were supposedly given to workers here by allowing multiple capitalist electoral parties to compete in elections. The result has been more poverty and more terror, especially against the albino population.

Workers in Tanzania, like workers in Greece, the United States and everywhere else, must unite behind the red banner of the international revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party. PLP will eradicate the capitalist dictatorship that thrives off imperialism and genocide worldwide with a dictatorship of millions of armed workers organized in our Party to build communism.



PLP in Tanzania has been organizing CHALLENGE study groups among workers on anti-albino racism. We are bringing this fight against superstition, racism, sexism, and capitalism to schools and workplaces to demand an end to the killings. These struggles are strengthening us for the revolutionary struggles to come.✪

PL Sparks Class War

Continued from page 8

dents who had participated in the trips or supported them joined PLM, which emerged as a vigorous force in the emerging New Left in the U.S. The Cuba trips were a decisive turning point for PLM. As a head-on challenge to President Kennedy's State Department travel ban, as well as a demonstration of solidarity with the working class in Cuba, they were a huge success — groundbreaking events in the development of student radicalism in the 1960s.

Wiping Out HUAC

In 1963, when the first group of students returned from Cuba after breaking the travel ban, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) launched an anti-communist attack by summoning many of them to hearings in Washington in an attempt to intimidate and possibly jail them. Until then, the Committee had focused on asking Hollywood stars, Communist Party USA leaders and others if they were communists. Virtually all took refuge in the 5th Amendment, citing their constitutional right to refuse to answer. HUAC's strategy was to cite them for contempt and threaten jail terms. The famous "Hollywood Ten" were imprisoned for up to a year.

CPUSA leaders "took the 5th," posing as "defenders of the Constitution and of democracy." No one ever answered the question directly. If they said "no," the Committee would haul in some stoolpigeon to testify that they were communists. If they said that they once had been communists but had quit, the Committee would then ask them to name others they knew to be communists. It was a lose-lose proposition, but PLM changed the game.

While hundreds picketed outside, PL'ers took the stand and answered by declaring: "Yes, we are communists and proud of it!" This set HUAC members back on their heels; they weren't prepared for that answer. It represented PL's principle of openly advocating socialism, the term used prior to PLP's proclaiming a direct goal of communism.

In April 1964, HUAC descended on Buffalo, where PLM had established an industrial and campus base. The Committed prattled on about a "threat of a new communist movement" that "needed to be dealt with." A Buffalo Courier-Express headline clarified HUAC's aim: "New Communist Operation Here A Prime Target."

But in sharp contrast to the CPUSA's defensive stance, PLM launched an all-out offensive; 1,500 pickets greeted the anti-communist red-baiters. The University of Buffalo Student Senate appropriated funds to support the protest. The entire city was in an uproar. Front-page headlines screamed: "Red Probers in Buffalo Hear the Sound of Fury"; "Witnesses Spark Uproar, Grapple With Marshals"; "UB Instructor Ridicules HUAC"; "Rain-Soaked Pickets' Chants Echo Outside HUAC Session." The demonstrators were supported by various mass groups, some printing full-page ads in the Buffalo paper. Clerics joined the picket line.

The hearings were completely disrupted. HUAC fled town. PL's principle of confronting anti-communism directly and organizing mass support, rather than hiding behind the bosses' Constitution, proved decisive.

In 1966, HUAC launched an investigation of "subversive activities" in the anti-war movement, subpoenaing many, including five student members of PL. The Party mobilized 800 protestors to pack the Washington, D.C. hearing room to disrupt the proceedings while also demonstrating outside Congress. They exposed the racist HUAC as Nazis, turning the hearings into an attack on capitalism and on the liberal Johnson Administration, accusing it of mass murder in Vietnam and racist policies in the U.S.

That was the last straw. Three years of bold PL actions led to HUAC's demise as an official Congressional committee.

From our beginning, PL has stood at the forefront of attacking racism and imperialism, fighting back against every attack the bosses can throw at it. The lessons of all these struggles are that it's necessary to anticipate ruling-class attacks and develop alternative plans to defeat them. <any different avenues of struggle must be employed to smash the bosses. Dare to struggle! Dare to win! Be bold! Always be guided by the principle of acting in the best interests of the working class. Grow stronger through struggle. Ruling-class terror will never destroy the communist movement.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Young Fighters Toughen Up

The following three letters are from PL'ers and friends who participated in the Black Lives Matters Convention (see article, page 3)

The trip to the Black Lives Matter Convention opened my eyes to the realities of Black Nationalism. It was disturbingly clear throughout this event that ultimately Black-only spaces reinforce ideas of racism and dupe honest working-class people into the false promise of healing, and only served to open old wounds while igniting hostile nationalistic fervor. I'm now cognizant that the purpose of the Black Lives Matter organization is not the so-called liberation of Black workers, but their imprisonment under Black capitalists.

★

As a multiracial group, my comrades and I attended the Black Lives Matter (BLM) convention the weekend of July 24. Instantly, we were met with hostility by the organizers and were confronted for being a multiracial group by the founders and organizers of BLM.

The organizers wanted to know how we "identify" ourselves, stating this is a space for Black people to heal. They targeted our two white comrades. The coordinator asked if they could leave. We said, "Do you have a separate space for our white comrades to go to?"

"No, but we're working on it," they responded.

We said, "we've came together, we fight together, and we're staying together." We then headed to our first workshop.

The workshop we attended was titled "turn down on ourselves, turn up on the state." It was going well until one of the "healers" of BLM led the attack against the white participants and then proceeded to attack our Black comrades who spoke up for multiracial unity. We held our ground, saying that if you are serious about fighting racism, you can't operate under the laws of racism. We can never be a threat to the rulers if our class remains divided. The only way for workers to heal is by fighting back.

After feeling a bit dejected for getting kicked out, we still decided to have a rally the next day. We got into a scuffle with the BLM for having a rally against racism. We stood together and fought back when they tried to attack our female comrade and take the bullhorn. A few participants in the crowd assisted in physically defending us against the leadership's attack. We left chanting, "Racism means, we got to fight back!"

We had a forum afterwards. Many of us were shaken up and wanted to cancel the forum, but the collective chose to stay. Out of frustration and fear, one comrade walked out before the forum began.

One hour later, we had five people join our forum. We openly discussed communism and the possibility of an armed revolution. We made great contacts. Some BLM participants said, "What happened to you was messed up." Our new friends and then joined us at a town hall meeting of families who lost their kids to racist police terror.

This trip taught me that fighting back is healing. Also, we need to fight against individualism. We are stronger together than apart. This event only lit my fire for the fight for a communist future. If you're not fighting racism, you are maintaining capitalism. Join the Fight!

★

I attended the Movement for Black Lives convention in Cleveland with Black Lives Matter (BLM) Gary. What I saw at this convention disgusted me. BLM Gary is a multiracial group that fights racism together. We were told via email that this was a "Black only convention," that Black people needed "a place were they can feel safe," and that white people need not come. "What kind of Jim Crow bulls--t is this?!" one member of our group said. We came to a collective decision not to honor the racist rule. Plain and simple, it is segregation and divides the working class.

HAITI, July 28 — A century since the United States occupied Haiti, more than a thousand people demonstrated under the leadership of PLP in the coutryside. The demonstration was organized to denounce the occupation, exploitation, hunger and high prices (see more next issue).

Upon arriving, we attended the workshop "Whose World is This? The World is Ours." At the start, there were six Black people and one Asian person in the room, plus our five multiracial members of BLM Gary. While we waited for the moderators, we all talked and had a lot of questions about fighting racism. When the moderators showed up, we started with an introduction before they asked if "everyone identifies as black." One moderator asked the Asian worker and our white comrade to leave to create a "safe place for black people." We stated that you can't fight racism with more racism and that it is anti-working class to segregate people. BLM Gary stood our ground and fought for our comrade, so she stayed and we all tried to continue with the workshop.

However, instead of discussing the real issue, racism, the moderators continued to attack the idea of white workers in an "all Black space." When the moderator stated that we needed a "cool down" session and asked all the "non-black people" to please leave, all BLM members just got up and walked out together.

In a nutshell, the so-called leaders of this movement are trying to take Black workers' anger towards this system and pacify it with "safe spaces," "speak-out sessions," "healing," and "attacking white people" instead of fighting racism and capitalism. The misleaders of the Movement for Black Lives will take good people, people who want to truly fight racism, and mislead them to the bosses' politics and more of the same. We learned a lot at this conference: we MUST build a base in the working class, bring our ideas to more Black workers, and get them to join the Party.

★ ★ ★ ★

Bengali Shipbreakers Must Break Their Chains

This week a comrade and I went to a screening of a documentary about Bangladesh, called *Iron Crows*. The documentary is by a South Korean film director who follows workers known as "shipbreakers" in the Chittagong province of Bangladesh. One half of the world's giant freighters and super-tankers come to Chittagong to be dismantled, and over 20,000 workers are employed doing this.

Most of the workers are barefoot and few have any equipment. When a new ship comes in to the bay, workers walk through knee-deep mud at low tide and attach metal cables to winch the ship closer to shore. Then the workers climb over 20,000- or 30,000-ton steel ships with blow torches, severing the tankers into giant pieces while children as younger than twelve run about doing tasks. The workers compete to work here because poverty is so extreme in Bangladesh, they will die if they don't.

One worker the film followed, Belal, is nearly killed on camera when he was trapped under a massive piece of the ship being broken down. Later that night, after the workers praise Allah [god] for sparing his life, Belal laments his situation, longs for his family, and dreams of a different future. Another worker suggests that Allah chose them for this work, and this was their destiny. Later we find out Belal's wife just gave birth to a baby girl who was blind, because Belal didn't make enough money shipbreaking and his wife was malnourished throughout the pregnancy. He makes the three-day journey to his home village, and breaks down crying when he finally holds his beautiful, blind daughter.

This is a perfect film to teach about capitalism. We see how the racist bosses of the shipbreaking company, who provide Bangladesh with 84 percent of all the country's domestic steel, also make huge profits auctioning off the toilets, wiring, and any consumer goods salvageable from the ships. We see pay day, when workers who are owed money are told simply the company can't afford to pay them. When one worker complains, everyone is kicked out.

I was born and raised in Sénégal, West Africa, and even though the poverty there isn't always as extreme, I felt what these workers were going through. When I was growing up, eleven or more of us would eat from the same plate of rice. My mother would shove food to the side for me because I wasn't fast enough and tell me to hurry, so many other kids had to eat. Kids have to fight with the cats who are hungry, too. As a teenager I immigrated to the U.S. for a better life and being an immigrant here has not been easy. In Bangladesh, many children simply do not eat. Immigrating is a distant dream.

As shocking as it was, the documentary also shows how invincible the spirit of these workers is. Through the worst conditions, we see workers joking and laughing, tenderly lying with their wives and husbands, sharing joy and despair, kissing away each other's tears. Not one person in the audience had dry eyes by the end. And so it is also a perfect film to teach about the working class. *Iron Crows* is also about our strength. When we organize that, we will win.

★ ★ ★ ★

Capitalist Crisis Caused by Overproduction

It's inspiring to read that high school students are leading classes in political economy ("Spring Communist School: Youth Take Lead Building for Revolution," CHALLENGE, 4/22). However, we need to correct a mistake in one part of the article that says that capitalist crises, also known as depressions or recessions, occur because workers can't "buy back" what they produce. Depressions and recessions are actually periodic "crises of overproduction," meaning too much of something is produced for capitalists to make a profit.

The most recent recession, in 2007-2008, began with overproduction of houses. In spite of mass homelessness and a general housing shortage for workers, like everything produced under capitalism, profitability isn't related to how many workers are able to buy homes. Capitalists can only realize profits when competing groups of capitalists sell more homes and expand their share of the market.

In the last boom year, 2006, 1.05 million new homes were sold in the U.S. In 2007, only 774,000 (CNN Money, 1/28/08), despite a cut in the average price of 10.4 percent. CNN wrote, "Glut of homes driving down prices," and noted that "Lennar, the nation's largest home builder, reported a $1.25 billion fourth-quarter loss, the largest in the company' s history."

Lennar and its five or six major national competitors all knew the housing boom — fueled by cheap and fraudulent mortgages — would end, as every previous housing boom had ended. They kept building as fast as they could, borrowing money to buy land, equipment, and materials and to hire more construction workers—they were in a race. To survive, each had to capture a larger and larger market share. Each reasoned that if they could pile up profits fast, they could get through the bust stronger than their competitors, maybe even drive one or two out of business, and emerge in an even stronger position during the next boom.

Capitalist crises have happened every 10 years or so in every capitalist country for centuries, and communists and their friends must be armed with the understanding that it's not because workers cannot buy back their products.

Workers are never paid the full value of what they produce. For every house or car a group of workers build, they receive a fraction of its value as a wage. The full value is realized when the capitalist sells it, and the difference is called "surplus value," or profit.

Workers never have enough money to "buy back" what they produce. Much of what they produce is meant to be bought by capitalist institutions or by the capitalist class itself, not by workers. A few examples: machine tools, construction and mining equipment, oil wells, pipelines, military and police gear, roads, bridges, tunnels, large trucks, buses, railroad cars, airports, commercial airliners, business jets, factories, office buildings, hospitals, medical equipment, luxury goods.

It's impossible to predict exactly when the next bust will occur, and dropping out of the race while the boom is still on means giving up a competitive advantage. The "anarchy of capitalist production" is built into the system. Capitalists know they will end up with more product than they can sell, but they have to produce it anyway. The boom generates the bust.

Returning to the 2007 crisis, it began in the housing sector but soon became a general crisis. Homebuilders canceled orders for construction equipment (bulldozers, cranes, power tools), materials (lumber, bricks cement, wire, pipes) and appliances (furnaces, air conditioners, sinks, toilets, stoves, refrigerators). The suppliers in turn stopped buying steel, aluminum, rubber, and electricity. The homebuilders, suppliers, mortgage lenders, title insurers, and real estate agencies laid off workers, who cut back on purchases of consumer goods.

Trade union leaders and liberal politicians put forward the "buy back" explanation because it supports their position that capitalism, by paying higher wages, can be fundamentally reformed to benefit the working class. They then say that to prevent these crises, the bankers and bosses have to stop being so greedy and pay workers more.

Communists must not put forward this false explanation. Instead, we must demonstrate that crises are inherent to capitalism, part of its competitive essence. While some individual capitalists certainly appear more greedy and callous in their disregard for the working class than others, these periodic crises have nothing to do with individual greed. As capitalist crises worsen, the need for capitalists to conquer other rival bosses' labor markets and resources through imperialist war sharpens. Crises will end only when the system that causes them, capitalism, is destroyed by communist revolution.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Racist kkkops kill three per day

GW, 7/10 — Police in the U.S. are killing people at a rate that would result in 1,100 fatalities by the end of this year, according to a Guardian investigation that recorded an average of three killed per day in the first half of 2015.

…Deaths caused by law enforcement…this year, found 547 people had been killed by 30 June….478 of those were shot, 31 died after being shocked by a Taser, 16…after being truck by police vehicles, and 19 died after altercations in custody.

Adjusted to reflect the U.S. population,…black people are being killed by police at more than twice the rate of white…people.

A-bomb testing threatens 53,000

GW, 7/10 — …Above a giant dome…rests America's cold war legacy…: 84,000 cubic metres of radioactive debris left after 12 years of nuclear tests in the 1940s and '50s….People here call it the Tomb….The effects of climate change could tear the concrete mantle wide open, releasing its contents into the ocean….

Enewetak and the…Bikini atoll were the main sites of America's Pacific Proving Grounds for atomic explosions….

…In total, 67 nuclear bombs were detonated on Enewetak and Bikini…equal to 1.6 Hiroshima bombs every day over 12 years. The detonations blanketed the islands with irradiated debris — including plutonium-239, which has a half-life of 24,000 years….

In 1980…the…people of Enewetak were allowed to return to the atoll….Today the U.S. says that the jurisdiction for the dome and its toxic contents lies with the Marshal islands….

The Marshallese, a country with a population of 53,000…is incapable of dealing with the potential radioactive catastrophe left by the Americans….

Many people fear the Dome will break open….As catastrophic weather events become more frequent… typhoons could destroy…the cement panels or inundate the island….

"Why Enewetak? Why not Nevada?" asks [Enewetak senator Jack] Ading. "I know why. Because they don't want the…nuclear waste in their backyard. The least they could have done is correct their mistake."

Wage slavery: 84 percent of world lives below U.S. poverty line

NYT, 7/9 — …Barely 16 percent of he world's population [were] living above the official United States poverty line — $23,021 for a family of four in 2011….

The Pew Research Center concluded that more than half the world's population remains "low-income," while another 15 percent are…called "poor…."

The global poor [are] defined as those who lived on $2 a day or less….

The report defined as "middle" or "upper-middle" income those who lived on $10 to $50 a day. Fewer than one-fourth of the world's population met that criteria….

Rulers enabled Bosnian massacre

GW, 7/10 — The fall of Srebrenica in Bosnia 20 years ago, prompting the worst massacre in Europe since [Hitler's]… Third Reich, was a key element of strategy pursued by Britain, the U.S. and France….

Eight thousand Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed in July 1995 by Bosnian Serb death squads…[in] a UN "safe area." The act has been declared a genocide by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague….

New…evidence…show[s] that the British, U.S. and French governments accepted that Srebrenica and two other UN-protected areas were "untenable"…and were ready to cede Srebrenica to the Serbs….

Western powers were also aware of…a Bosnian Serb military directive ordering "permanent removal" of Muslims from the safe areas.

Black, Latin kids most poverty-stricken

NYT, 7/15 — Black children were almost four times as likely as white children to be living in poverty in 2013….according to…the Pew Research Center….

About 38.3 percent of black children lived in poverty in 2013, nearly four times the rate for white children…. About 30.4 percent of Hispanic children…live in poverty….

The number of black children in poverty appears to have overtaken the number of poor white children, even though white children far outnumber black children in the American population….

A household in poverty in 2013 was defined as a family of four, two of whose members were children, living on an annual income of less than $23,624….

[One] reason…black children were lagging was the unemployment rate, which has been consistently higher for African-Americans….as children are more likely to be poor if their parents are unemployed.

"Arab Spring"? U.S. finances Egypt's police state

NYT, 7/16 — For decades, Egypt's authoritarian leaders used the Emergency Law to oppress and intimidate government critics under the guise of national security….

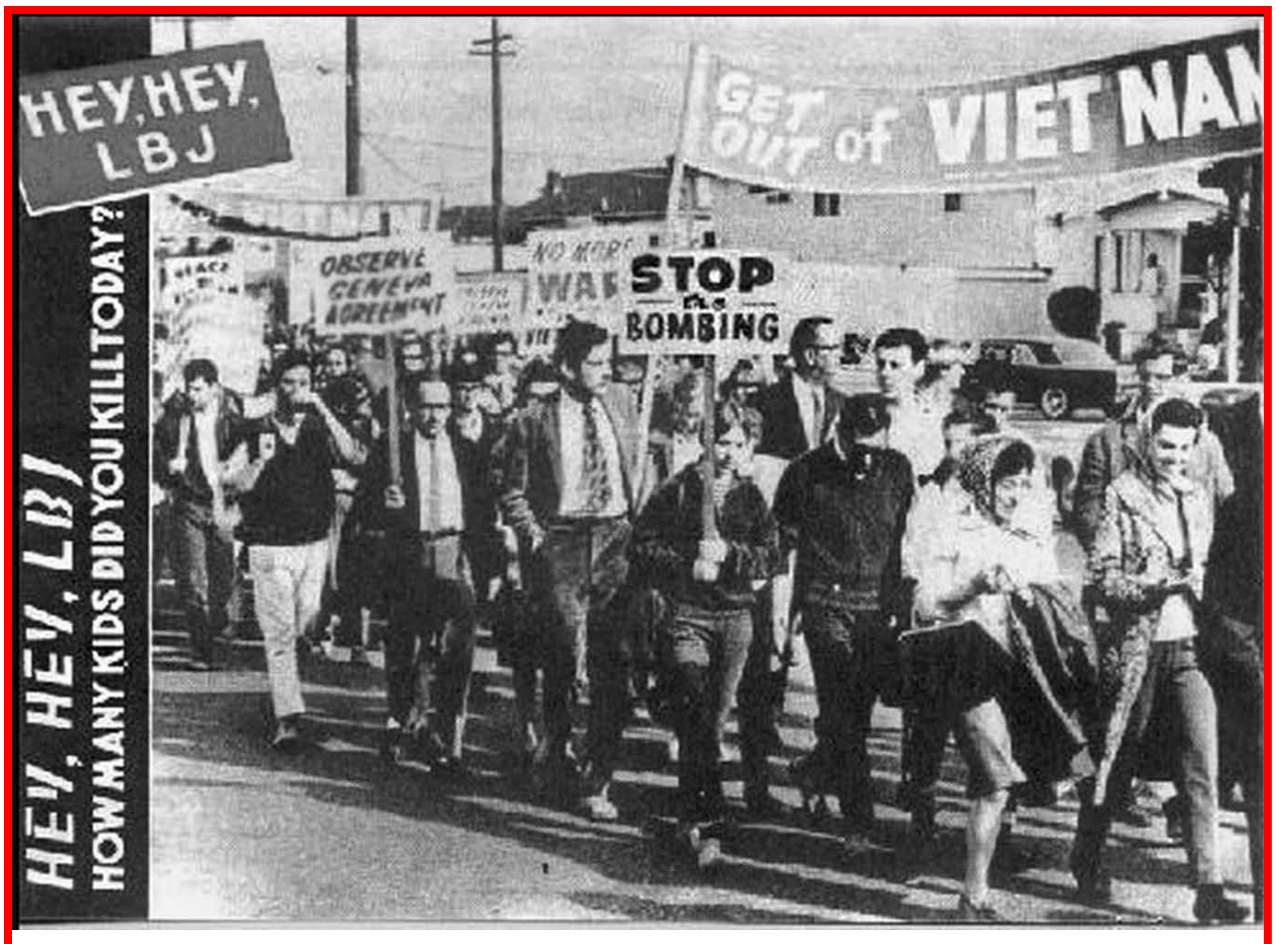
Egypt is already a police state. Recent drafts of the counterterrorism law…make it even more repressive….

Obama administration officials and congressional lawmakers have been all too willing to overlook the abuses because they see Egypt as an indispensable ally….In recent weeks, House and Senate members passed versions of the foreign aid bill…[allotting] the annual $1.3 billion in military aid to Egypt….

Lawmakers have become complicit in Egypt's repression.

Birth of New Communist Movement

PL SPARKS CLASS WAR



SDS march against the Vietnam War, a movement PLM led.

Since May 6, we have been publishing articles in celebration of PLP's 50th anniversary. These articles describe the origins of PLP — including its forerunner, the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) — as well as our concentration among industrial workers and why the fight against racism is of strategic importance in the fight to overthrow capitalism. Here we will review our Party's leadership of the anti-Vietnam War movement, the breaking of the government ban on travel to Cuba, and the defeat of the fascist House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

PLM Leads the Anti-Vietnam War Movement

In the early 1960s, class struggle was heating up. The U.S. bosses embarked on a genocidal war in Vietnam. The leadership shown by the working class in Vietnam after decades of resistance to French imperialism inspired millions of workers worldwide. Black workers led rebellions in almost every major U.S. city and rocked the capitalist class back on its heels. In the midst of intensifying class struggle in March 1964, a Yale University conference on socialism was attended by many pseudo-left organizations, including the "Communist" Party USA and various Trotskyite groups. The conference was geared for a scholarly debate on theory. Only PLM broke through this nonsense to advocate building a militant anti-imperialist movement!

PLM leader Milt Rosen electrified the audience of 500 students and faculty by focusing on opposing U.S. imperialism's efforts to crush the revolutionary movement in Vietnam. He called for a nation-wide mobilization on May 2 to protest U.S. aggression there. The proposal was approved overwhelmingly and a May 2nd Committee was organized under PLM's leadership.

On May 2, thousands of workers and students marched and rallied in cities nationwide. In New York City, 1,000 heard PL speeches about the necessity for communist revolution. They broke a police ban on demonstrations in midtown Manhattan, winding their way through Times Square to the United Nations, demanding: "U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now!" It was the first national demonstration against the U.S. imperialist invasion and the forerunner of countless protests against U.S. rulers in the years ahead.

The Committee became a national organization called the May 2nd Movement (M2M). Hundreds joined. They played a major role in popularizing the struggle against U.S. imperialism's war against workers and peasants in Vietnam. They issued hundreds of thousands of leaflets, buttons and pamphlets; initiated numerous university teach-ins; organized rallies and marches; and developed "Free Universities" as an off-campus alternative to the rulers' educational system.

Following a massive Washington, D.C. anti-war rally of 25,000 organized by Students for A Democratic Society (SDS) in the spring of 1965, PLM's leadership fought inside M2M to dissolve it and join SDS, a move supported by the overwhelming majority within M2M.

M2M did play a vanguard role in opposing U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam and successfully broke with the old pacifist "peace movement" dominated by the Communist Party USA. That movement was never anti-imperialist but rather championed ruling-class collaboration behind slogans like "Ban the Bomb"; "Peaceful Co-existence"; and "For A Sane Nuclear Policy" — as if the working class could ever make peace with imperialist rulers! PL's slogan--"U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now!"—was eventually adopted by millions.

M2M helped move the emerging anti-war forces to the left and toward anti-imperialism. Many youthful fighters joined PLM, having learned from their mass struggles in the M2M.

Breaking the Cuba Travel Ban

Although Cuba eventually became a state capitalist country, the Cuban Revolution of the early 1960s had great appeal for youth in the U.S., and especially for Black and Latin workers. U.S. imperialist rulers feared the Cuban revolt would spark similar uprisings throughout Latin America and radicalize U.S. workers and students. President Kennedy's CIA-directed Bay of Pigs invasion had failed miserably.

Prior to that invasion, PLM distributed tens of thousands of leaflets and held streets rallies warning about Kennedy's plans. It even unfurled the first "Hands Off Cuba" banner in the galleries of the United Nations during the UN debate over the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba, a crisis that aroused fears of a nuclear war.

After Cuba confiscated a billion dollars worth of U.S corporate property, the Kennedy Administration instituted an economic boycott of Cuba and established a ban on travel there. While other pseudo-left groups merely reprinted Castro's speeches, PLM boldly announced they would break the travel ban.

Over 500 students applied to the PLM-led Ad Hoc Committee to Travel to Cuba to defy the U.S. State Department. Seventy-five were selected. In the summer of 1963, the Committee outwitted a government plan to block them and flew to Cuba via Czechoslovakia. The trip succeeded; 59 students broke the "Kennedy curtain." It was reported in headlines nationwide. Attorney General Robert Kennedy condemned the organizers and promised to punish them.

Upon returning to New York, in a showdown at the airport, immigration officials tried to seize the ban-breakers' passports, mark them "invalid" and refuse their entry back into the U.S., based on a 1918 law to control the travel of spies for Germany's kaiser during World War I. The students refused to surrender their passports and sat down in the airport. Hundreds of family members and supporters were waiting nearby, along with newspaper and TV reporters. The standoff lasted two hours. Finally the agents gave in, allowing the students to enter while serving them with letters revoking their passports.

The pro-fascist New York Daily News ran a front-page photo of the students cheering as they came through immigration barriers, along with a headline scorecard: "PUNKS 1, STATE DEPARTMENT 0!"

Within weeks, more than 50 students were either cited for contempt or indicted for conspiracy to break the ban. Some faced 20-year prison terms, but the government's attack failed miserably. A national defense campaign won widespread support. Most of the young PLM comrades and friends held firm and grew stronger in their commitment to fight the rulers. They announced they were organizing another trip to Cuba! The following year, almost a thousand students applied; 84 were selected and again broke the ban.

Afterward, four student committee leaders were indicted for illegal travel to Cuba. After a two-year fight, eventually reaching the Supreme Court, the charges were dropped. The ban had been beaten. Many stu-

Continued on page 5

SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

••••$15 individual 1 year

••••$35 for institution 1 year

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Make check or money order to:
Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO • PLP